



# Knight Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

NUMBER 31 SPRING 1989



## PROFILE: David Schaefer

*Former President LCSNA*

When David Schaefer, one of the founding members and a past President of the LCSNA was a child, he was fascinated by his mother's collection of books by and about Lewis Carroll. After inheriting these books, he became an avid Lewis Carroll collector himself. In 1991, the Schaefer family collection will be 100 years old.

Enamored with Carroll's *Symbolic Logic* in his mother's collection, David took a symbolic logic course at Tulane University, and this became the basis of his future career – at Goddard Space Flight Center designing computers for satellites and developing the first massively-parallel computer. He is now Professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering at George Mason University.

The Schaefer's Carroll collection contains not only *Alice* in 47 foreign languages, first editions and memorabilia, but also the most comprehensive movie collection of *Alice* films from the first 1903 silent to the latest videos. He has shown his films at LCSNA meetings, the New York Public Library, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at Lewis Carroll Society meetings in Holland and England. A prize possession is a newsreel of Alice Hargreaves arriving in New York for the celebration of the 1932 centennial anniversary of Lewis Carroll's birth.

David is intrigued with the many facets of life that approximate Carroll quotations, and is especially fascinated with the very apt description of weightlessness in *Sylvie and Bruno*.

## Lewis Carroll and Hughes' "The Lady With the Lilacs"



A painting by 19th century artist Arthur Hughes, that once hung over Lewis Carroll's fireplace in Christ Church, was recently exhibited in Toronto. Known as "The Lady with the

Lilacs", it was featured in an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Toronto, along with books, photographs and sketches by Carroll.

Hughes, illustrator of George MacDonald's *At the Back of the North Wind* and a book of nursery rhymes by Christina Rossetti, gave the painting to Carroll on October 13, 1863, when Carroll took a photograph of Hughes and his daughter. After Carroll died, the painting remained in the Dodgson family until 1965, when it was sold at Christie's and acquired by the Gallery.

Hughes' great grandsons are still living in England, but upon the death in 1920 of his daughter, all of his letters, papers and probably his diaries were thrown out.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Fall Meeting of  
The Lewis Carroll Society  
October 21, 1989  
The Morgan Library, NYC

## Memorial for Joyce Hines

A memorial service for Dr. Joyce Hines, former Vice-President of LCSNA, was held on January 7th, at the Roosevelt House, in Manhattan.

It was announced that a Joyce Hines Memorial Fund had been set up at Hunter College, from which Ms. Hines graduated.

Friends and relatives who spoke emphasized Ms. Hines' love of life, her involvement in cultural activities and her beautiful singing voice, which is preserved in several tapes played at the service. Ms. Hines particularly loved Gilbert and Sullivan, and her arias from *Patience*, and *The Gondoliers* demonstrated her glorious soprano voice.



## Oxford to Host First International Conference

The first International Conference of the Lewis Carroll Society will be held in Oxford from July 27-30.

The theme of the conference, as stated in the pamphlet issued by the English Lewis Carroll Society, will be to "consolidate what we now know about Lewis Carroll - to review discoveries of recent times and to look towards the future. Reference will be made to the universal appeal of Lewis Carroll and speakers will come from several countries."

Delegates will stay at Christ Church and take their meals there. Besides the internationally-known guest speakers, there will be exhibitions, films and two outings.

Cost is £175 per person, which covers three nights accommodation and all meals. A £50 deposit is required for each person attending, and should be sent to:

Mark Richards,  
7 Avondale, 109 Truro Road,  
Wood Green, London N22 4DP.

## "Alice and Look Who Else" Museum Exhibit Touring U.S. Through 1992

An unusual collection of 48 works of art based on the AIW and TTLG themes is presently on tour throughout the United States. Called "Alice and Look Who Else Through the Looking Glass", the exhibit had its opening in New York at the Bernice Steinbaum Galleries from December 10th through January 7, 1989.

The catalogue of the exhibit is a meaningful work of art itself. The cover shows a die-cut Victorian frame, while above it is an actual magnifying glass attached by a gilded string. Although the illustrations are in black and white, they are beautifully printed and are captioned by each individual artist. Two essays give the background of the *Alice* stories and comment on the artists and their work.

Starting in June, the Exhibit will travel to Princeton, New Jersey; Moscow, Idaho; Nashville, Tennessee; Guelph, Ontario; Huntington, West Virginia; Tempe, Arizona; Hempstead, New York; Pensacola, Florida and Fort Wayne, Indiana, where it will end its 1990 tour. Other cities will be visited in 1992.



To get the complete schedule, write to the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, 132 Greene Street, New York 10012.

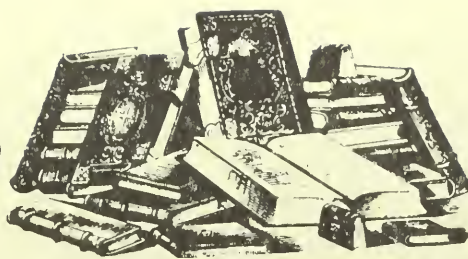


New York Post: March 29, 1989 Michael Schwartz

**STERNTEACHER:** It was wonderland at the Wonderland Statue in Central Park, New York March 28th as blue skies and a near-record temperature of 82 degrees made it a perfect afternoon for kidding around. That's just what Parks Commish Henry Stern had

in mind when he grabbed a rousing tale from his library and hunkered down on a single-story mushroom. The captivated kids didn't give a hoot that the mercury came within just two degrees of a record set way back in 1945.





## Sydney Philharmonia Presents "Boojum" in Concert

In what was called "its best performance ever" the Sydney Philharmonia Motet Choir presented the musical piece *Boojum!* by the Wesley-Smith twins. Subtitled "Nonsense, Truth and Lewis Carroll," the production has gone through several changes since it was first presented by the Australian composers some time ago.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that the work is "a major achievement. There has been nothing to touch its combination of scale and spontaneity in the Australian Choral repertory." Innovatively, the house lights were kept on so that the audience could follow the libretto — a crucial factor, according to Martin Smith, who wrote the music to his brother Peter's libretto.



Martin Wesley-Smith

A very attractive program which includes the full libretto is available from Martin at 22 Ryan Street, Lilyfield, Sydney NSW 2040 Australia. Another piece by Martin, *White Knight and Beaver*, is included in a CD called *Australian Percussion Music*, available from Fifth Continent Music Corp., 1200 Newell Hill Place, Suite 302, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. (Price unknown).

## New Reference Work

### Lewis Carroll: A Reference Guide.

Rachel Fordyce. Boston: G.K. Hall (1989) xxxiv, 160 pp. \$40.00

Lewis Carroll's familiar Snark-hunting refrain, "They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care; they pursued it with forks and hope. . .," can be aptly applied to the bibliographer's conscientious quest for accuracy and completeness. But can the compiler of a bibliography, particularly one working on the prodigious outpourings by and about an author as popular as Lewis Carroll, ever fully succeed in that quest? We have not seen it up to now, nor are we likely to find it in *Lewis Carroll: A Reference Guide*, by Rachel Fordyce.

Although Fordyce should be credited with having made a valiant effort, she is guilty of several omissions immediately obvious to this reviewer. She states in her introduction that "practically all features of Dodgson's adolescent and adult life are significant because they tend to be directly related to some facet of his work." Yet she chooses not to include Colin Ford's *Lewis Carroll at Christ Church* with Morton Cohen's insightful essay and the charming and informative *Alice's Adventures in Oxford*, by Mavis Batey, to name just two items. However, since she does maintain that she did not intend the work to be an exhaustive study, one hesitates to criticize her too severely.

Much of this bibliography is a duplication of Edward Guiliano's annotated list

covering the years 1960-1977, albeit not quite as comprehensive nor as well-organized as Guiliano's. Fordyce's major contribution is the citation of many works published before 1960 and intensive coverage of those which appeared after 1977. She includes critical and descriptive periodical articles, books and/or parts thereof, significant reviews and unpublished dissertations. Entries contain full bibliographic descriptions accompanied by concise and surprisingly informative annotations. The items all arranged alphabetically by author, in one general listing; a shortcoming we feel since Fordyce herself mentions that Carroll scholarship is "comprised of four distinct categories: biography. . .; bibliographic studies. . .; literary criticism; and studies of the non-literary tradition. . ." However, topical information is accessible through an extensive index.

The chronological title list of all Carroll's books, pamphlets, poems and short pieces offered at the beginning of the book would better serve the user had publication information been included. What is useful to the scholar, however, is Fordyce's critical overview of Carroll studies in her introduction in which she indicates which areas have been well-covered and which have been neglected.

One would have hoped for a more exhaustive bibliographical guide. But until that appears, Fordyce's compilation will act as a significant tool to scholars and collectors in providing access to the Carroll literature. Janet Jurist

The current catalog of Oxford University Press lists Dean Liddell's Greek-English Lexicon, Ninth ed., with a 1968 supplement; an Intermediate Lexicon founded on the 7th ed; the Supplement separately; and a 1935 Abridged Lexicon. All versions are called either "standard", "essential", "definitive" or "valuable".

M.F.K. Fischer's *Consider the Oyster* (1941) has recently been reprinted. Clifton Fadiman's review asserts "Since Lewis Carroll, no one had written charmingly about that indecisively-sexed bivalve until Mrs. Fisher came along."

In Phyllis Newman's recently-published autobiography, *Just in Time*, she refers to composers Adolph Green and Leonard Bernstein as sharing a passion for Lewis Carroll. Now, if we could just get the two of them for a future meeting!

Robertson Davies' latest book, *The Lyre of Orpheus*, uses large chunks of *The Hunting of the Snark* in the later sections.

The Past Recaptured... In American Book-Prices Current for 1925, we find the following: Doublets. A Word Puzzle. Author's own copy with initials and date of receipt on half title; several MS. corrections. \$25.00... Euclid and His Modern Rivals. Presentation copy. \$8.00... Collection of 11 pamphlets (Unspecified). \$55.00

The *Alice*-adapted movie, *Dreamchild*, is now on videocassette for \$19.95. Available from Publishers Central Bureau, Avenel, NJ 07007. Add \$3.95 for shipping.

Catalog #2 from Jeff Weber — Rare Books features a lovely cover in full color of AIW characters. It is a reproduction of the cover of a portfolio album of photographs of actress Colleen Moore's Dollhouse. The origin of the fabric is not known to Mr. Weber. His address is 1923 Foothill Drive, Glendale, CA 91201.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Charles Lovett's book *Alice and the Stage* is at the printer and will be published soon. It will be reviewed in our next issue.

# from our far-flung



# correspondents

*(Editor's Note: We're constantly receiving information from members concerning matters relating to LC. Since we don't have space to print it all, we try to choose those items which seem more significant than others. But thank you all and keep sending items of interest!)*

(In the vast history of children's literature, no book to our knowledge has created the kind of universal appeal as the two adventures of Alice. As the editor, we receive dozens of letters every issue, with cartoons, political references, catalog offerings, plays, advertising, and movies. Every facet of the culture, it seems, finds in *Alice* the universal symbol that meets all situations. In each issue, we can only give a sampling of this material. To sum up - we believe that there are still unplumbed elements in the *Alice* books - a mystique which gives it the universality of *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Don Quixote* and the works of Shakespeare. Perhaps it was said best in an article in MD magazine. Dr Melvin Konner writes: "Alice's observations are so simple and offhand - yet so humorous. She was heroic in this world of adult convictions and strange behavior." Aren't all unforgettable characters in literature heroic or larger than life?)

A radio version of *Alice*, read by Patricia Routledge, a British actress, receives high

praise for its calm, unhurried style. From Cover to Cover Cassettes, Ltd., 1430 W. Peachtree St., NW, Suite 605P, Atlanta, GA 30309. \$17.50.

The Spring 1989 Smithsonian catalog features cast pewter figurines of six Wonderland characters. Priced from \$49.50 to \$75.00.



*Is this Alice Liddell? No, it's Sasha Gerten, Sandor Burstein's granddaughter. This is how she dresses when she comes to visit him!*

Kenn Oultram, Editor of the newsletter of the Daresbury LC Society, was kind enough to send us a copy of the newsletter with an advertising enclosure from Aynsley China Ltd. A 4-page folder in full color, it features a series of collector's plates and figurines from the *Alice* books, modeled after the Tenniel drawings. No prices are given, but further information can be obtained by writing to Aynsley at Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 1HS, England.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presented "The Formative Decades — Photography in Great Britain, 1839-1920." Drawn from the Gernsheim collection in Austin, it featured Carroll and Cameron items.

"I am not Lewis Carroll," a one-man show with Dan Bredemann as LC was presented recently at the Itchey Foot Cabaret in Los Angeles. Critics found the performance "Touching, amusing, enlightening..." "A beguiling adventure" and, "Nothing short of magical." Bredemann uses quotations from the *Alice* books, letters and some invention to fashion his portrayal.

For assistance in preparing this issue, we would like to thank Earl Abbe, Hilda Bohem, Sandor Burstein, Lucille Posner and Krans Mujoob.

*The Knight Letter* is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America and is distributed free to all members. Subscriptions, business correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, LCSNA, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Submissions and editorial correspondence should be sent to: Stan Marx, 15 Sinclair Martin Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576

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